

Dear The Hon Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister,

I, the undersigned, call upon the Government of Mauritius to refuse the application by Biosphere Trading to expand its primate facility, and to deny the company permission to capture wild monkeys.

Mauritius is one of the world's largest suppliers of monkeys for research and the nature, size and scale of the industry raise major welfare issues, in particular, the suffering and distress caused to monkeys by their unnatural captivity and export. Non-human primates are intelligent and highly evolved animals with complex behavioural and social needs, yet thousands are held in breeding farms, where they spend their lives behind bars, on concrete, deprived of the lush foliage of their forest home.

I am concerned there may be a return to the commercial trapping of wild monkeys for research in Mauritius; a practice that is widely condemned because of the cruelty and immense suffering caused by the capture and removal of wild monkeys from their natural habitat and family and social groups.

The long-tailed macaque has been living on Mauritius for over 400 years. Over this time, these monkeys have become part of the ecosystem, contributing to its biodiversity. They deserve protection and to be treated humanely, not killed or captured for research purposes.

I support Action for Primates and Progress Science Mauritius/NO Animal Experiments in their efforts to raise awareness about this important issue, and join their call to the Government of Mauritius to 1) deny the application by Biosphere to expand its facility and 2) refuse permission to allow the capture of wild monkeys.

SIGNATURE:

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NAME:

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DATE:

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